

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4048

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of traumatic brain injury care in rural areas.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MASSA, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SESSIONS, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of traumatic brain injury care in rural areas.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT**  
4 **PROGRAM ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**  
5 **CARE IN RURAL AREAS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans  
7 Affairs shall carry out a pilot program in five rural States  
8 selected by the Secretary, in consultation with the Office  
9 of Rural Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 In each of the five States selected, the Secretary shall as-  
2 sign a specific Department of Veterans Affairs case man-  
3 ager to each individual diagnosed with traumatic brain in-  
4 jury who is receiving care in a medical facility of the De-  
5 partment of Veterans Affairs in a selected State. In car-  
6 rying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

7           (1) provide training at Department of Veterans  
8       Affairs medical facilities located in the selected  
9       States for Department of Veterans Affairs case  
10      managers who are assigned to individuals diagnosed  
11      with traumatic brain injury;

12           (2) coordinate with non-Department medical fa-  
13      cilities located in the selected States to provide for  
14      such training, as appropriate;

15           (3) determine an appropriate ratio of traumatic  
16      brain injury patients to each case manager to ensure  
17      the patients receive proper and efficient treatment;

18           (4) for any area in a selected State in which no  
19      Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility is  
20      easily accessible, seek to enter into a contract with  
21      a private health care provider located in that area  
22      under which the Secretary shall reimburse the pro-  
23      vider for providing health care to traumatic brain in-  
24      jury patients residing in that area; and

1           (5) provide updated information on the treat-  
2           ment of traumatic brain injuries to private health  
3           care providers that have entered into contracts with  
4           the Secretary under paragraph (4).

5           (b) REPORT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
6           shall submit to Congress an annual report on the pilot  
7           program under this section.

8           (c) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a  
9           pilot program under this section shall terminate on the  
10          date that is five years after the date of the enactment of  
11          this Act.

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